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**APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/533,249**

**FILING DATE: *December 31, 2003***

**RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US04/43856***



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PTO/SB/16 (08-03)

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607533249

123103

INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname		Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)	
Leslie L.		Jacobs, Jr.		Silver Spring, MD	
Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
A Method, Apparatus and Computer Readable Medium for Providing a More Consistent Stream of Aggregate Payments that are to Satisfy a Plurality of Contractual Rights to Receive Payments in Exchange for Transfers of Interests in Intellectual Property Assets					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number: _____					
OR					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name		Leslie L. Jacobs, JR.			
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Address					
City		Silver Spring		State	MD
Country				Zip	20911
		Telephone		Fax	
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages		22		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets		4		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Date Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.				FILING FEE Amount (\$)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.				80	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: _____					
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The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

[Page 1 of 2]

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

*Leslie L. Jacobs, Jr.*

TYPED or PRINTED NAME Leslie L. Jacobs, Jr.

TELEPHONE 301.802.1803

Date 12.31.03

REGISTRATION NO. 40,659

(if appropriate)

Docket Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

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123103

December 31, 2003

Mail Stop Provisional Application  
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Re: U.S. Provisional Application  
Appl. No.: To Be Assigned  
Filed: Herewith  
For: A Method, Apparatus and Computer Readable Medium for  
Providing a More Consistent Stream of Aggregate Payments that  
are to Satisfy a Plurality of Contractual Rights to Receive  
Payments in Exchange for Transfers of Interests in Intellectual  
Property Assets  
Inventors: Leslie L. Jacobs, Jr.  
Ref No.: BMP-4A

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Provisional Application for Patent Cover Sheet (PTO/SB/16);
2. U.S. Provisional Application entitled: **A Method, Apparatus and Computer Readable Medium for Providing a More Consistent Stream of Aggregate Payments that are to Satisfy a Plurality of Contractual Rights to Receive Payments in Exchange for Transfers of Interests in Intellectual Property Assets** and naming as inventor(s):  
Leslie L. Jacobs, Jr.  
the application consisting of:
  - a. A specification containing:
    - (i) 14 pages of a description prior to the claims;
    - (ii) 7 pages of claims (21 claims);
    - (iii) 4 pages of drawings;

Commissioner for Patents  
BMP-4A  
Page 2

- (iv) 1 page Abstract;
3. Check No. 365 in the amount of \$80.00; and
  4. two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to me, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie L. Jacobs, Jr.

Enclosures

**A METHOD, APPARATUS AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM  
FOR PROVIDING A MORE CONSISTENT STREAM OF AGGREGATE  
PAYMENTS THAT ARE TO SATISFY A PLURALITY OF  
CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN EXCHANGE  
FOR TRANSFERS OF INTERESTS IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ASSETS**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates generally to intellectual property financing. In particular, the present invention relates to a method, computer readable medium and apparatus for evaluating payments streams flowing from transactions involving transfers of interests in intellectual property assets.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART**

Intellectual property asset interest holders (e.g., owners and licensees) are presently seeking to exploit their intellectual property assets to a much greater extent than in the past. The exploitation of intellectual property assets has lead to an increase in revenues for these intellectual property asset interest holders that is based on the licensing, sale or leasing of those intellectual property assets. By way of example, the licensing of intellectual property assets provides an intellectual property asset interest holder with a contractual right to receive a future stream of royalty payments, which are based on the sales of products and/or services

incorporating the intellectual property asset(s). These royalty payments often extend over time and end in accordance with the terms of the license agreement upon which the royalty payments are based. An intellectual property asset interest holder may also seek to sell or lease intellectual property rights to another entity in return for a stream of fixed or variable payments.

A disadvantage associated with receiving a future stream of payments as a result of transactions involving intellectual property assets is that an intellectual property asset interest holder may desire to receive a present cash payment instead of waiting to receive future payments. By way of example, the present cash payment would correspond to the net present value of the future stream of payments (e.g., royalty payments). By receiving a present cash payment, the business entity could reinvest the money in its core business to achieve a higher rate of return.

The use of intellectual property (IP) based asset-backed securities permits the conversion of a stream of income associated with an intellectual property asset into a cash payment representing the net present value of that stream of income (less the transaction fees associated with the issuance of those IP based asset-backed securities). An entity (such as a licensor, lessor or seller) having a contractual right to receive future payments flowing from another entity's use of an intellectual property asset would most likely be left with the prospect of having to wait for those future payments.

As to the issuance of IP based asset-backed securities, it is important to note that the income generated by intellectual property assets is usually a function of a future stream of royalty payments, as is the case with the licensing of an intellectual property asset. Notwithstanding the variability generally associated with royalty payments, the financial community has increasingly recognized the value that can be associated with intellectual property assets and has taken steps to harness this value through the use of IP-based asset backed securities.

Traditionally, asset backed securities have relied upon assets, which are tied to a predictable income stream. These assets include credit card debt and mortgages. Because the delinquencies associated with both unsecured and secured debt are very predictable, the expected rate of return on investments associated with these securities can be accurately determined. Investments associated with intellectual property assets involve not only substantial legal risk but also substantial commercial risk. Hence, if one seeks to convert a contractual right to receive a future stream of royalty payments into a single cash payment, investors must be found who are willing to shoulder the legal and commercial risks associated with the intellectual property asset underlying that stream of royalty payments.

What is needed are techniques for reducing the variability associated with streams of, for example, royalty payments so that they are more consistent and so that they will provide a more predictable cash flow to enable investors in asset backed securities, as well as other investment vehicles, with a greater degree of



confidence that the income associated with the asset backed securities will be more reliable.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

5           The present invention encompasses techniques which provide for a more consistent stream of aggregate payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets and is best understood with reference to the description of the invention presented below and associated claims. The present  
10          invention may generally be embodied in a method, computer readable medium and/or apparatus.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

          These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention  
15          will become better understood with reference to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings, in which:

          Figure 1 depicts a variable stream of payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets.

20          Figure 2A depicts multiple variable streams of payments that are to satisfy contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one

or more intellectual property assets. The multiple variable streams of payments extend over several time periods.

Figure 2B depicts a table showing the amount of the payment(s) associated with each of the multiple variable streams of payments shown in Figure 2A for each time period.

Figures 3 shows, for each time period, the total aggregate amount of payments associated with different possible combinations (without repetition) of segments of the multiple variable streams of payments identified in connection with Figures 2A and 2B. For each period of time, the total aggregate payments, which correspond to a combination of segments of the multiple variable streams of payments, and which satisfy certain criteria, are selected in accordance with the present invention and are circled in Figure 3.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED**

### **EMBODIMENTS**

The present invention relates to a method, computer readable medium and apparatus for providing a more consistent stream of aggregate payments that are used to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets. By way of example, the intellectual property assets may include patents, patent applications, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets. The transfers of interests in intellectual

property assets may arise as a result of different transactions including the licensing, sale or leasing of those intellectual property assets.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention a method is provided that includes the act of selecting one or more segments of multiple  
5 expected streams of payments that are to satisfy contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets. The segments may correspond to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the expected streams of payments is expected to extend.

10 The segments are selected such that a first total amount of payments associated with the segments satisfies one or more criteria. By way of example, the criteria may include a requirement that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a predetermined amount in the first time period. The criteria may also include a requirement that the first total amount of expected payments be  
15 closest to the predetermined amount. The criteria may also include a requirement that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in the first time period.

The method may encompass selecting multiple segments of the multiple expected streams of payments from a multiple time periods including the first time  
20 period. Each of the multiple time periods corresponds to at least one of the multiple segments.

The method may also include the act of identifying one or more portions of contractual right(s) for transfer to an entity. These portions correspond to the one or more segments that correspond to the first time period. These portions may also be identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of the plurality of contractual rights.

The method may encompass identifying multiple portions of contractual rights for later transfer to an entity, such as a special purpose vehicle that facilitates an issuance of securities backed by said one or more portions of one or more of said plurality of contractual rights. These portions correspond to the multiple segments and may be identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of the contractual rights.

If the present invention is employed to identify multiple portions of contractual rights that are to be transferred to a special purpose vehicle, it may be useful to investment bankers who traffic in IP-based securities, such as the Pullman Group headed by David Pullman. David Pullman has sold bonds which have been backed by the licensing royalties associated with David Bowie's catalog of copyrighted music. The licensing royalties associated with album sales are a function an artist's copyright interest in the songs appearing on the album. A more detailed analysis of the transaction involving the Bowie bonds can be found in an article entitled, "Bowie Bonds Sold for Far More than a Song: The Securitization of Intellectual Property as a Super-Charged Vehicle for High Technology

Financing”, *Santa Clara Computer and High Technology Law Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 1, January 1999.

The issuance of IP-based asset backed securities involves several steps. Initially a special purpose vehicle must be established. The special purpose vehicle  
5 may be a partnership (limited or general), corporation, limited liability partnership, limited liability company or Delaware Intellectual Property Holding Company. Once the special purpose vehicle is established, the assets that will ultimately back the IP-based asset backed securities are transferred to the special purpose vehicle to facilitate the issuance of those securities. In particular, the assets are sold to the  
10 special purpose vehicle so that the special purpose vehicle may issue those securities. The assets, which are transferred to the special purpose vehicle, may include one or more contractual rights to receive royalties from the sale of goods and services, which incorporate one or more intellectual property assets. These assets may also include one or more contractual rights to receive payments  
15 associated with the sale or leasing of one or more intellectual property assets. The assets may further include a security interest in one or more of the intellectual property assets, a transferable interest in each of which has been exchanged for the contractual rights.

The reason for setting up the special purpose vehicle is to isolate the assets  
20 from any credit problems of the originator, which in this instance is the entity acquiring the contractual right to receive a stream of future payments from, for example, a licensor, lessor or seller of intellectual property assets. In this regard,

the special purpose vehicle should secure a perfected security interest in the assets that are transferred to the special purpose vehicle. This protects the assets, and hence the ultimate purchasers of the asset backed securities, from the reach of creditors if the originator itself faces the prospect of bankruptcy.

5           After a security interest has been perfected in the transferred assets, and if necessary the underlying intellectual property assets, the special purpose vehicle may issue securities (*i.e.*, the IP-based asset backed securities) in the manner prescribed by law. Thereafter, the assets must be serviced to ensure that the securities holders are properly compensated.

10           Figure 1 depicts a variable stream of expected payments 100, such as royalty payments, that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets. The horizontal axis 105 reflects the passage of time, whereas the vertical axis 108 reflects expected payments. The variable stream of expected payments  
15           may be modeled using a number of different modeling schemes. By way of example, it may be useful to employ the Gaussian (Normal) Probability Distribution Function because it may roughly approximate a shape reflecting a life cycle of products or services incorporating the intellectual property in which a transferable interest was exchanged for the contractual rights to receive payments.  
20           The variable stream of expected payments has been parsed into a number of segments 110 corresponding to periods 120 falling within a larger time period 130 of interest.

Figure 2A depicts exemplary multiple variable streams of payments **200**, **205**, **210** and **220** that are to satisfy contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets. The horizontal access **224** reflects the passage of time, whereas the vertical access **226** reflects expected payments. The multiple variable streams of payments extend over three time periods **230**, **235** and **240**. Each period shown on the horizontal access **224** is one unit (e.g., one month, one quarter, or one year), but any period could be used. In addition, the amounts shown on the vertical access **226** are in millions of dollars. The shapes of the variable streams of payments are chosen simply to facilitate an understanding of the invention, and it is contemplated that they could have a variety of shapes. The area under the curve shown representing each of the multiple variable streams of payments **200**, **205**, **210** and **220** for any given period will reflect the expected amount of payments to be received in that period.

Figure 2B depicts a table **250** showing the amount of the payment(s) associated with each of the multiple variable streams of payments shown in Figure 2A for each time period.

Figure 3 shows in a table **300**, for each time period **230**, **235** and **240**, the total aggregate amount of payments associated with different possible combinations (without repetition) of segments of the multiple variable streams of payments identified in connection with Figures 2A and 2B. Here  $C_1$  **310** and  $C_2$  **320** reflect two segments selected from among four possible segments in each time period **230**, **235** and **240**. If we have four segments and wish to select only two,

the number of combinations to be evaluated is determined using the following formula:  $n\_C\_k = n!/(k!(n-k)!)$ . In this example,  $n=4$  and  $k=2$ . As such, there are six possible combinations to evaluate for each time period. However, the actual values of  $n$  and  $k$  may vary and still be in accordance with the present invention.

5           For each period of time, the total aggregate payments that correspond to each combination of segments of the multiple variable streams of payments are determined. If the total aggregate payments for a particular period satisfy certain criteria specified, for example, by a user of the method of the present invention, then the corresponding combination of segments is determined to satisfy the  
10           criteria, and they are selected in accordance with the present invention. In this instance, the criteria include the requirements which follow: the combination of segments to be selected (i) must provide total aggregate payments of at least a predetermined amount of \$5 million and (ii) must provide total aggregate payments that are closest to the predetermined amount. In the event that there is a  
15           tie among the total aggregate payments provided by two or more combinations of segments, the first of these combinations to be evaluated is selected. Those combinations of segments selected for each of the periods 230, 235 and 240 are shown circled in Figure 3. Thereafter, portions of contractual right(s), which correspond to the selected segments, are identified for transfer to an entity, such as  
20           a special purpose vehicle, as indicated above.

          The present invention may be implemented in a computer system including one or more computers, which may be connected via a network (not shown). The



present invention may also be implemented in a computer readable medium of the type described below. Each such computer may be a desktop, laptop, PDA, cellular phone or other such device. The computer may be provided with a communication interface for two-way communication that provides the computer with a physical and/or wireless network connection. The communication interface may be coupled to the processor via one or more buses. Examples of communication interfaces include a modem (analog or digital), LAN card, or an ISDN card.

The communication interface provides a link to one or more networks. By way of example, the communication interface may enable a connection to a remote computer via, for example, equipment operated by an Internet Service Provider. The Internet Service Provider in turn provides data communication services through the worldwide packet data communication network referred to as the Internet.

Each computer has one or more processors for processing information that is coupled to one or more memory storage devices via one or more buses. The memory storage devices may be used for storing information and instructions to be executed by the processor(s). The memory storage devices may include dynamic storage device(s) and/or static storage device(s). Examples of such memory storage devices include a RAM, ROM, flash memory, magnetic disk, optical disk, or a redundant array of independent drives (RAID). The computer may be

coupled to the storage device(s) via a local area network, wide area network or public network (e.g., the Internet).

The memory storage device(s) coupled to the processor(s) of the computer may also store programs and/or data including information relating to executing acts that carry out acts of the method described in connection with Figure 4.

Each computer of the computer system may also be provided with a display, such as a CRT, LCD, plasma or other such display, as well as input devices, such as a keyboard, mouse and/or trackball for entering information by a user. The display and input devices are coupled to the processor(s) via one or more buses.

A computer-readable medium includes any medium that provides instructions to a processor for execution such as non-volatile media, volatile media and transmission media. Examples of a computer-readable medium include the memory storage devices discussed above, as well as transmission media such as electromagnetic waves, such as those generated during radio wave and infrared data communications. Computer-readable media may also include a floppy disk, magnetic medium (such as a hard disk), CD-ROM, RAM, PROM, EPROM, FLASH-EPROM or any other memory chip or cartridge.

Various forms of computer readable media may be involved in carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions to a processor for execution. The remote computer (e.g., server or peer) can load the instructions into its dynamic memory and send the instructions over a network to a local computer

(e.g., client or peer). The local computer's communication interface receives the instructions and provides them to the processor(s) of the local computer via one or more buses for execution.

5 It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the method of the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. By way of example, the present invention may also be applied to other intangible assets such as spectrum licenses. Also by way of example, the above-mentioned list of contractual rights may be implemented as a plurality of lists. Thus, it is intended that the present invention  
10 cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method of providing a more consistent stream of aggregate payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, the  
5 method comprising the acts of:

selecting one or more segments of a plurality of expected streams of payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, said  
10 segments corresponding to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the expected streams of payments is expected to extend, wherein said one or more segments are selected such that a first total amount of payments associated with said one or more segments satisfies one or more criteria; and

15 identifying one or more portions of one or more of said plurality of contractual rights for transfer to an entity, said one or more portions corresponding to the one or more segments that correspond to the first time period, said one or more portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said plurality of contractual rights.

20 2. The method defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of segments of the plurality of expected streams of payments are selected from a plurality of time

periods including said first time period, wherein each of said plurality of time periods corresponds to at least one of said plurality of segments, and wherein a plurality of portions of said one or more of said plurality of contractual rights are identified for transfer to an entity, said plurality of portions corresponding to the plurality of segments, said plurality of portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said plurality of contractual rights.

3. The method defined in claim 1, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a predetermined amount in said first time period.

4. The method defined in claim 3, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments be closest to said predetermined amount.

5. The method defined in claim 1, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in said first time period.

6. The method defined in claim 5, further comprising the act of transferring said one or more portions of one or more of said plurality of contractual rights to an entity.

5 7. The method defined in claim 1, wherein said entity is a special purpose vehicle.

8. The method defined in claim 7, wherein said special purpose vehicle facilitates an issuance of securities backed by said one or more portions of one or  
10 more of said plurality of contractual rights.

9. The method defined in claim 1, wherein said payments are royalty payments.

15 10. A computer readable medium carrying one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors coupled to a memory, cause the one or more processors to carry out the following acts.

selecting one or more segments of a plurality of expected streams of payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in  
20 exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, said segments corresponding to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the

expected streams of payments is expected to extend, wherein said one or more segments are selected such that a first total amount of payments associated with said one or more segments satisfies one or more criteria; and

5 identifying one or more portions of one or more of said plurality of contractual rights for transfer to an entity, said one or more portions corresponding to the one or more segments that correspond to the first time period, said one or more portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said plurality of contractual rights.

10 11. The computer readable medium defined in claim 10, wherein a plurality of segments of the plurality of expected streams of payments are selected from a plurality of time periods including said first time period, wherein each of said plurality of time periods corresponds to at least a one of said plurality of segments, and wherein a plurality of portions of said one or more of said plurality of contractual rights are identified for transfer to an entity, said plurality of portions  
15 corresponding to the plurality of segments, said plurality of portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said plurality of contractual rights.

20 12. The computer readable medium defined in claim 10, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a predetermined amount in said first time period.

13. The computer readable medium defined in claim 12, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments be closest to said predetermined amount.

5

14. The computer readable medium defined in claim 10, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in said first time period.

10

15. The computer readable medium defined in claim 10, wherein said payments are royalty payments.

15

16. An apparatus comprising one or more processors coupled to a memory storing instructions that are executed by said one or more processors such that said one or more processors select one or more segments of a plurality of expected streams of payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, said segments corresponding to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the expected streams of payments is expected to extend, wherein said one or more segments are selected such that a first total amount of payments

20



associated with said one or more segments satisfies one or more criteria; and  
identify one or more portions of one or more of said plurality of contractual rights  
for transfer to an entity, said one or more portions corresponding to the one or  
more segments that correspond to the first time period, said one or more portions  
5 being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least  
one of said plurality of contractual rights.

17. The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein a plurality of segments of  
the plurality of expected streams of payments are selected from a plurality of time  
10 periods including said first time period, wherein each of said plurality of time  
periods corresponds to at least one of said plurality of segments, and wherein a  
plurality of portions of said one or more of said plurality of contractual rights are  
identified for transfer to an entity, said plurality of portions corresponding to the  
plurality of segments, said plurality of portions being identified for transfer apart  
15 from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said plurality of contractual  
rights.

18. The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein satisfaction of said one or  
more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a  
20 predetermined amount in said first time period.

19. The apparatus defined in claim 18, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments be closest to said predetermined amount.

5           20. The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in said first time period.

10           21. The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein said payments are royalty payments.

**Abstract**

A method, computer readable medium and apparatus for providing a more consistent stream of aggregate payments that are to satisfy a plurality of contractual rights to receive payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets.

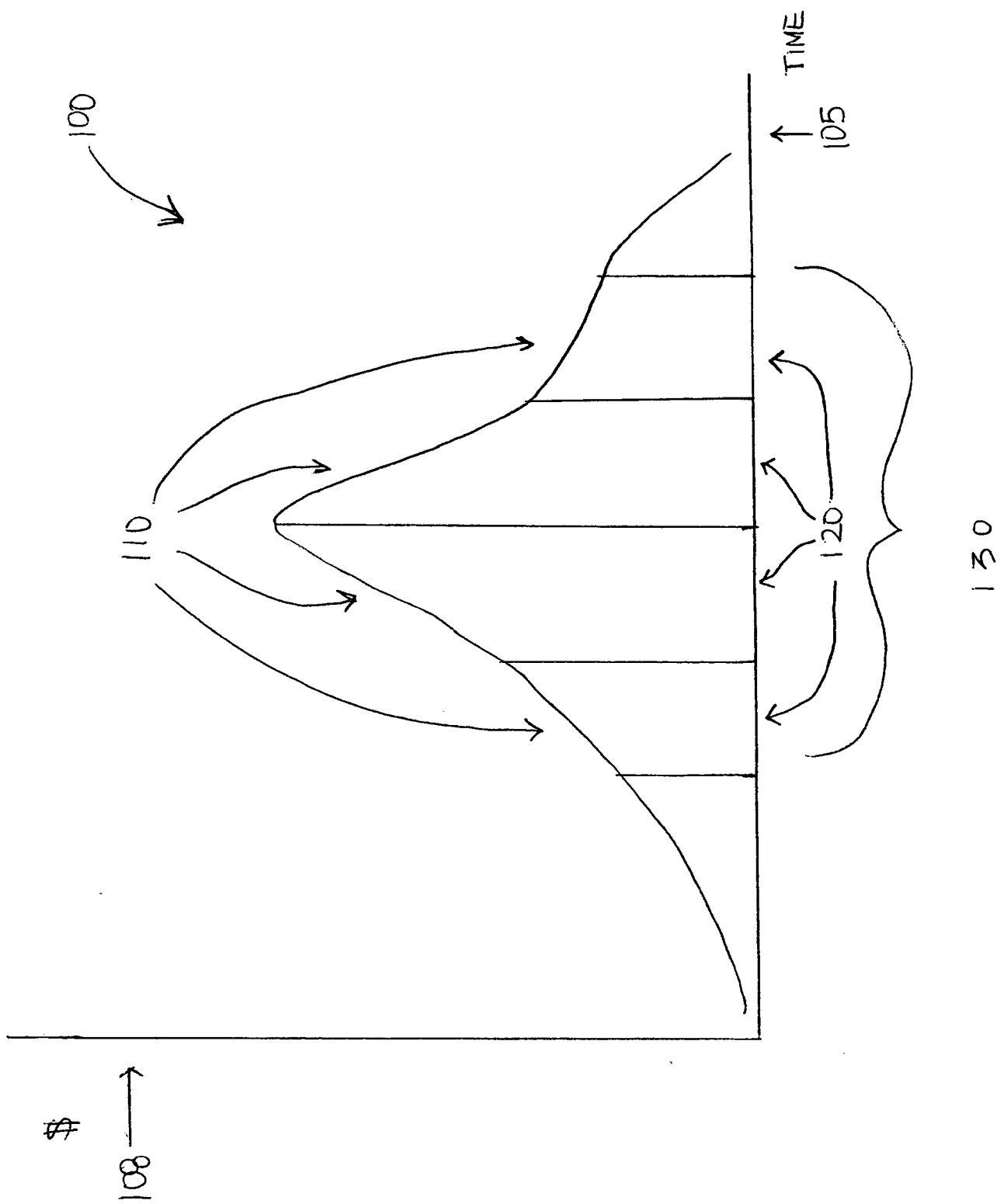


FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2A

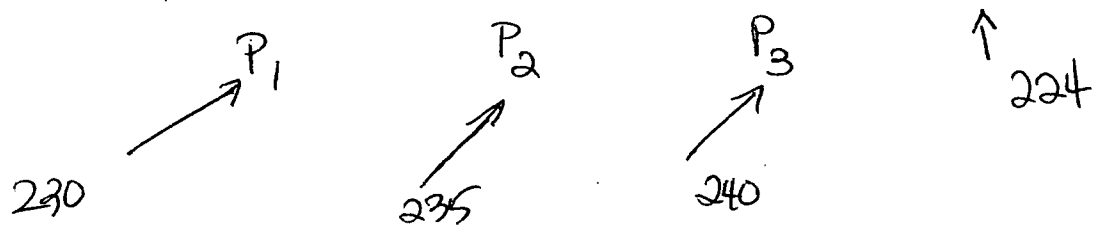
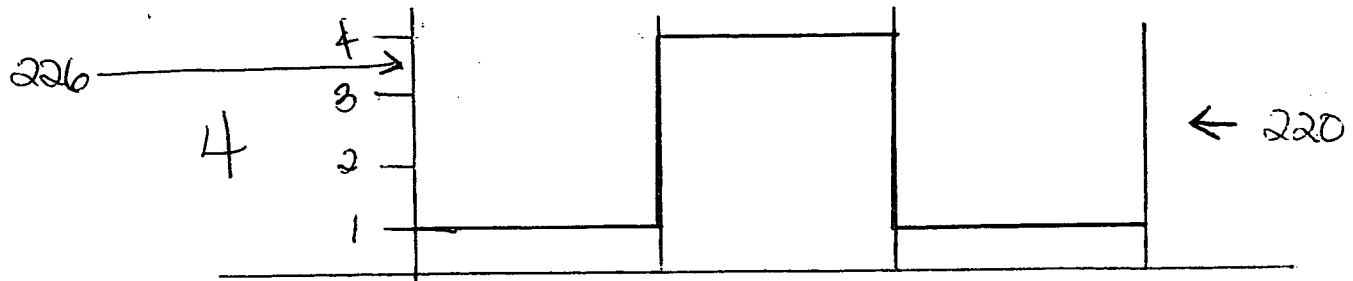
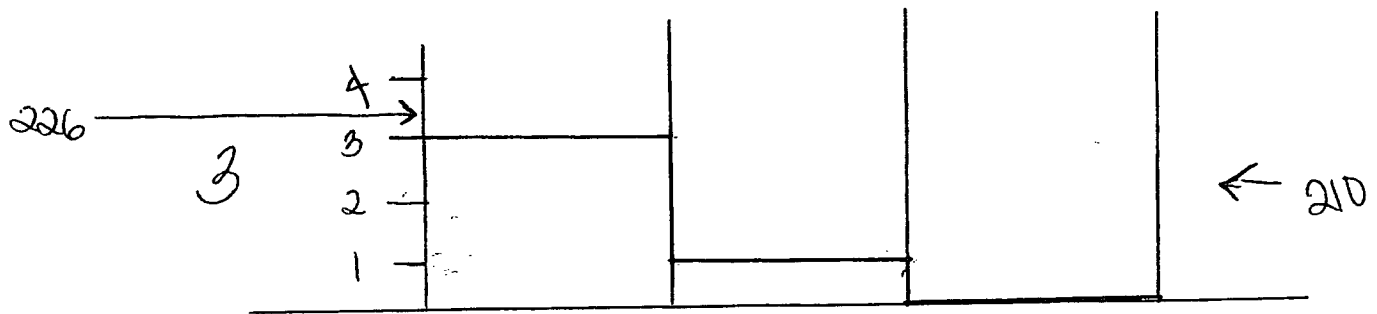
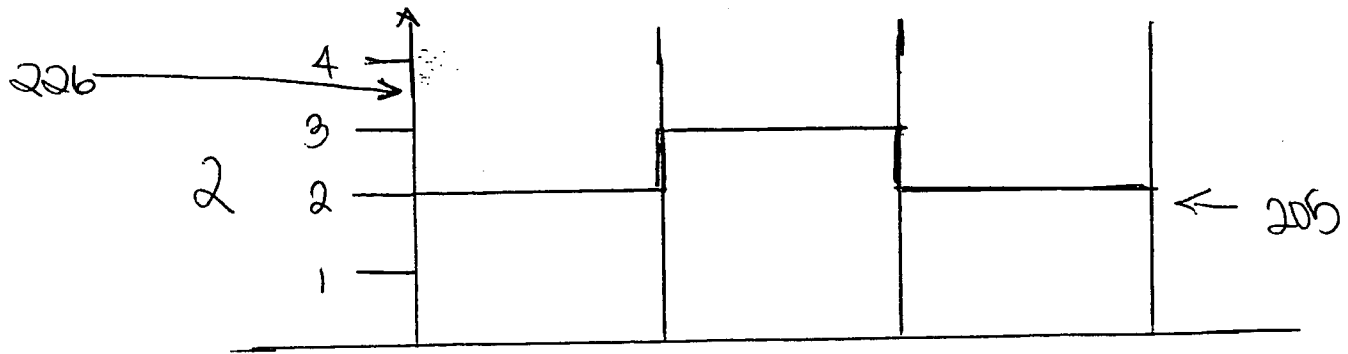
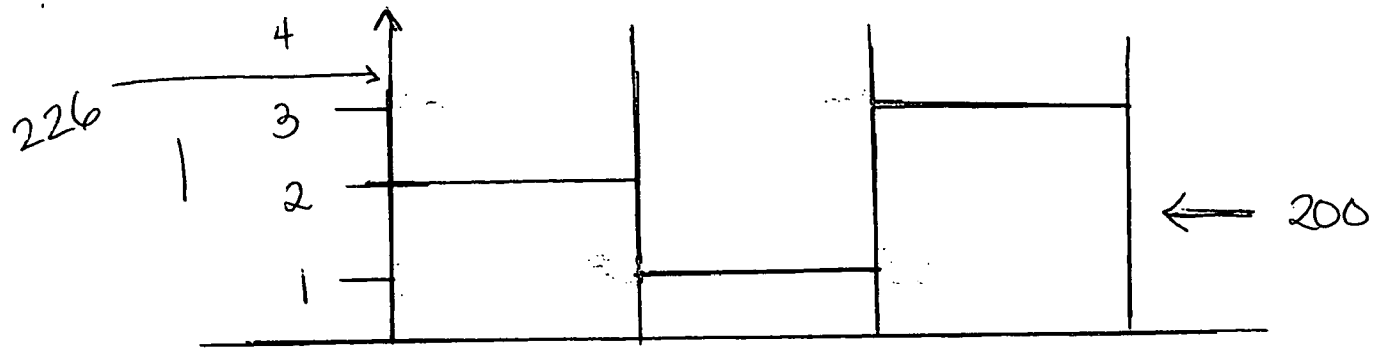


FIGURE 2B

250 →

	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
P1	2	2	3	1
P2	1	3	1	4
P3	3	2	0	1

310 ↙ $C_1$	320 ↙ $C_2$	230 ↓ $P_1$	235 ↓ $P_2$	240 ↓ $P_3$	300 ↙
1	2	4	4	(5)	
1	3	(5)	2	3	
1	4	3	(5)	4	
2	3	5	4	2	
2	4	3	7	3	
3	4	4	5	1	

FIGURE 3